

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A proposal for enhancing the retirement age of teachers in centrally funded institutions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, from 62 years to 65 years is presently under consideration of the Government.

Fee hike in higher education

590. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to hike fees for higher studies;
- (b) if so, the extent to which the fees are expected to be hiked and on which fields;
- (c) how far such a hike in fees shall have adverse effect on the education of children of middle class population; and
- (d) how far the minority community students shall be deprived of the education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Crisis in higher education

591. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several recent studies have revealed that India is facing a deepening crisis in higher education with declining standards and a poor governance;

(b) whether a plan papers warns of an emerging talent supply shortage that could lead to a significant loss of opportunities for the country;

(c) if so, whether to enable India make the most of its demographic dividend, urgent measures are needed to improve the quality of higher education and expand the supply of top institutions; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the education to a higher plane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of Universities in Orissa

592. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC Chairman has reviewed the functioning of all the nine universities in Orissa;

(b) whether during the discussion a request has been made to the Chairman for providing more funds to the State universities for development of infrastructure; and

(c) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) An interactive session was held by UGC from 14 th to 16th November, 2006 with the Vice Chancellors of the six State Universities in Orissa, which are eligible to receive grants under Section 12 (B) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. Details indicating the general (development grants released to these universities during the Tenth Plan is given in Statement-I (See below). The grants released to these universities apart from general development grants, is given in Statement-II.